Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method associated with minimizing random-access latency to a compressed source video data stream which is characterized with one access latency and one spatial resolution, said method comprising:

engaging such a source video data stream;

deriving from that engaged data stream, two downstream-deliverable video data streams that are characterized by differing, respective access latencies and spatial resolutions, one of which downstream-deliverable video data streams is characterized, relatively speaking, by a low access latency and a low spatial resolution, and the other of which is characterized, in comparison, by a higher access latency and a higher spatial resolution, wherein, relatively speaking, said low access latency is associated with more closely spaced I-frames in said one downstream-deliverable video data stream in comparison to more widely separated I-frames in said other downstream-deliverable video data stream; and

transmitting said two, downstream-deliverable video data streams using a first communication channel, wherein said transmitting comprises multiplexing said two, downstream-deliverable video data streams.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the two downstream-deliverable data streams are time-synchronized.

3. (currently amended) A method, practicable at a video-data reception location, associated with minimizing random-access latency at that location to received compressed video data which is characterized by a pair of prior-derived video data streams, one of which is further characterized by one access latency and one spatial resolution, and the other of which is further characterized by another access latency which is larger than the mentioned one access latency, and another spatial resolution which is larger than the mentioned one spatial resolution, and where such access latencies are differentiated by different time spacings that exist between designated video I-frames placed in the data streams, with larger spacings between such I-frames relating to larger access latencies, and with smaller spacings between such I-frames relating to smaller access latencies, said method comprising

seeking access to the received, two-video-data-stream characterized video data,

in relation to said seeking, monitoring the two, associated video data streams to detect the first occurrence in either stream of an I-frame,

on detecting such an occurrence, selecting the associated data stream to be the source for a viewable output stream, and

(a) if the first detected occurrence involves an I-frame in the mentioned other video data stream, ending the monitoring and selecting process, but

(b) if the first detected occurrence involves an I-frame in the mentioned one video data stream, continuing to monitor the other video data stream to detect therein the first next occurrence of an I-frame, and on that detection taking place, switching to and

selecting that other video data stream to be the source for a viewable output stream, and then ending the monitoring and selecting process.

4. (currently amended) Apparatus associated with minimizing random-access latency to a compressed source video data stream which is characterized with one access latency and one spatial resolution said apparatus comprising:

engaging structure for engaging a source video data stream;

deriving structure operatively connected to said engaging structure, operable to derive two, downstream-deliverable video data streams from such an engaged source data stream, wherein said two, downstream-deliverable video data streams are characterized by differing, respective access latencies and spatial resolutions, one of which downstream-deliverable video data streams is characterized, relatively speaking, by a low access latency and a low spatial resolution, and the other of which is characterized, by comparison, by a higher access latency and a higher spatial resolution, wherein, relatively speaking, said low access latency is associated with more closely spaced I-frames in said one downstream-deliverable video data stream in comparison to more widely separated I-frames in said other downstream-deliverable video data stream; and

transmitting structure for transmitting said two, downstream-deliverable video data streams over a first communication channel.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus which is operable to practice a method implementable at a video-data reception location, for use in association with minimizing random-access latency, at that location, to received, compressed video data which is characterized by a pair of prior-derived video data streams, one of which is further characterized by one access latency and one spatial resolution, and the other of which is further characterized by another access latency which is larger than the mentioned one access latency, and another spatial resolution which is larger than the mentioned one spatial resolution, and where such access latencies are differentiated by different time spacings that exist between designated video I-frames which are placed in the data streams, with larger spacings between such I-frames relating to larger access latencies, and with smaller spacings between such I-frames relating to smaller access latencies, said apparatus comprising

seeking structure operable at the mentioned location to access such received video data,

monitoring structure operatively connected to said seeking structure for monitoring the two video data streams associated with such accessed video data for the purpose of detecting the first occurrence in either stream of an I-frame,

and selecting structure operatively connected to said monitoring structure, operable on the detection of such an I-frame occurrence to select the associated data stream to be the source for a viewable video-data output stream, with said selecting structure specifically operating whereby (a) if the first detected occurrence of an I-frame relates to the mentioned other video data stream, the selecting structure effects an ending

of the monitoring and selecting process, but (b) if the first detected I-frame relates to the mentioned one video data stream, the selecting structure effects the continuation of monitoring by the monitoring structure of the other video data stream to detect therein the first next occurrence of I-frame, and on such a detection in the other video data stream taking place, effects a switching to and selecting of that other video data stream to be the source for a viewable output video data stream, and with the selecting structure also then effecting an ending of the operations of said monitoring and selecting structures.